United Nations S/2016/997

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 November 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 26 November 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to write to you to draw your attention to the barbaric terrorist attack on 24 November 2016 at a gas station on a highway 100 km south of Baghdad, Iraq, which killed or injured more than 150 people, most of them Iranian pilgrims en route back from a religious gathering in the city of Karbala. The blast from the explosives-laden truck set afire five pilgrim buses, killing scores of innocent people in the buses and surrounding areas. Regrettably, it is not the first terrorist attack of this kind; as in recent years, scores of Iranian pilgrims have lost their lives in similar attacks.

The Iranian people and Government have done and continue to do all in their power to help eradicate Daesh, which has claimed responsibility for the attack, and its affiliates and other terrorist groups and elements. This horrendous act of terrorism and so many other similar acts in which many thousands of innocent souls have perished in Iraq and Syria and many other places should remind all of us of our duty to effectively help destroy terrorist groups. It should also serve as a reminder to those who have spread destructive Takfiri ideology and sectarian hatred and helped terrorist groups in different ways to stop their acts and join the international community in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism.

While we expect that the United Nations condemns this terrorist attack in the strongest possible way, my people and Government also expect that the United Nations, especially the Security Council, will live up to the expectations of peoples and Member States and take concrete actions in addressing the scourge of terrorism.

I should be grateful if you have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamhossein **Dehghani**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

16-20976 (E) 301116

Please recycle